Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AGR-05 /091 W

-----070326Z 041747 /63

R 060739Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3217 INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY AMCONSUL CALCUTTA AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, ETRD, US, IN

SUBJECT: CASHEW IMPORTS PROBLEM

REF: STATE 097839

1. EMBOFF OUTLINED PROBLEM REFTEL TO MINISTRY OF COMMERCE JOINT SECRETARY PANDE AND LEFT HIM PAPER ON ASSOCIATION OF FOOD DISTRIBUTORS COMPLAINT. PANDE SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF PROBLEMS WITH TWO INDIAN EXPORTERS OF CASHEWS, RAJMOHAN CASHEWS PRIVATE LTD; WHICH HAD SETTLED THREE CLAIMS WITH COMPROMISE PAYMENTS AND HAVE FOUR PENDING CLAIMS; AND INTERNATIONAL CASHEWS TRADERS, WHICH HAD FOUR CASES, OF WHICH THEY WERE TAKING ACTION ON TWO. HE STATED THAT THESE TWO EXPORTING FIRMS DEALT WITH MOST OF THE MAJOR US IMPORTERS OF CASHEWS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY TRADE COMPLAINTS AGAINST STATE TRADING CORPORATION (STC), LARGEST INDIAN EXPORTER OF CASHEWS. HE ASKED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIFIC CASES OF COMPLAINTS.

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2. PANDE EXPLAINED THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE HOPED THAT THE PARTIES THEMSELVES WOULD WORK OUT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS AND THAT THE MINISTRY WOULD NOT BE A PARTY IN THIS PROCESS.

MOC WOULD ONLY INTERVENE IF INDIVIDUAL SETTLEMENTS WERE NOT FORTH-COMING. HE CONFIRMED THAT STC HAD AGREED TO RENEGOTIATE THE PRICE OF UNFINISHED CASHEWS FROM TANZANIA BECAUSE IT WAS A CHOICE OF DOING THAT OR NOT GETTING THE CASHEWS. STC AND GOI WOULD STAND

BY THIS DECISION.

- 3. ASKED ABOUT THE AFD COMPLAINT THAT ARBITRATION AWARDS AGAINST INDIAN COMPANIES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID, PANDE SAID THAT THE ARBITRATION PROCESS DEPENDED ON THE NATURE OF THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT. HE ASKED FOR SPECIFIC CASES WHERE THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA HAD ALLEGEDLY OBJECTED TO ARBITRATION AWARDS BEING PAID.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY SERIOUS EFFECT BY MOC, NONETHELESS WE WOULD BE WILLING TO PURSUE THESE CASES IF INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIFIC TRADE COMPLAINTS (NAMES OF IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS PLUS AMOUNT IN DISPUTE) ON PART OF U.S. IMPORTERS OF CASHEWS WERE RECEIVED. WE WOULD ALSO FIND USEFUL ANY SPECIFIC CASES OF UNPAID ARBITRATION AWARDS. SCHNEIDER

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